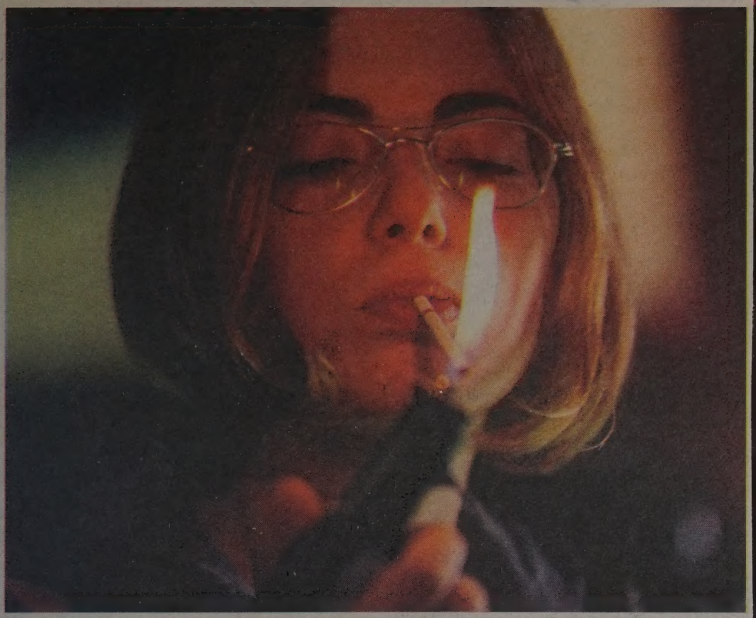


Gasoline, *playing Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Lavendar Film Festival*

19 Friday

Tonight, Saturday and Sunday, forget the yard work, postpone your shopping and haul ass over to the fourth annual **Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival** at the **Fine Arts Center** (30 W. Dale St.). This year promises a slew of films, including *9 Dead Gay Guys* (which features a horny and irate dwarf, among other things), the Dutch musical *Yes Nurse! No Nurse!* and the *The Event*, starring Parker Posey and Olympia Dukakis. Full festival tickets are $70, half-passes are $45, the bargain-basement-four-feature pass is $30 and individual tix are $10. Call 634-5583, 38-MOVIE or head on over to www.pplff.org for more information.

Tearing down the past

Here's a plot to ponder:

What sort of city government would seriously entertain giving away one o its architectural treasures, a building listed as a national historic site, to a land developer for a song?

What sort of city would then actually agree to spend taxpayer money on a favored developer to help him designate it as urban blight, secure massive tax breaks and low-interest loans and potentially tear down the architectural treasu

What sort of city would enter into secret negotiations with one developer to s a citizen-owned asset without putting the proposal out to bid, much less first as ing the owners if they want to sell?

What sort of city would place itself in the humiliating position of having to shell taxpayers' money to buy its way out of previous commitments to historical integrity

And what sort of city would violate its own master plan — which includes pr serving what's left of its historical downtown core?

You're living in that city.

On Sept. 11, Colorado Springs City Manager **Lorne Kramer** sent a memo randum to the nine-member City Council detailing his secret negotiations to sel the 80-year-old City Auditorium to Nor'Wooc Development Group. "Nor'Wood envisions co verting the City Auditorium into a four-story residential building," he wrote.

"For the Use of the People and the Glory of the City."

All of the events currently held at the audit rium, Kramer wrote, could easily be moved to the Phil Long Expo Center in northern Colora Springs near the Chapel Hills Mall.

In his memo, Kramer didn't raise the possibi ity of, at the very least, legitimately putting th City Auditorium on the open market, perhaps he city manager's memo and accompanying line at www.csindy.com — detail the extent t d and directed city staff to push forward thi

on the obvious: If the City Council really ng off the City Auditorium, perhaps they e whether they want to sell their building. long that the city's Parks and Recreation to cut the City Auditorium from its 2004 pr Kramer plans to hand over the architectural

ffered to steal the property for its land value a of turning the City Auditorium into lofts. of groups that have used the auditorium this g has hardly any windows. So if Nor'Wood into lofts, they would have to punch out win tectural appearance of the building. Which t grant from the Colorado Historical Society a nationally designated historic site.

learned its lesson from the appalling debacle renzy of the 1970s. Then, our leaders razed th he corner of Cascade and Pikes Peak. It is no

vash 'em

JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!

THE 4TH ANNUAL PIKES PEAK

LAVENDER FILM FESTIVAL

a polycontinental lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer cinematic experience

YES NURSE, NO NURSE

Dutch! Musical! Nurses! Vive la Camp!!!

FRIDAY RECEPTION 6:30 • FILM 8PM

THE BRIDGE GAME

Four women ritualistically vent their troubles

SATURDAY NOON

9 DEAD GAY GUYS

Outrageously comic and proudly tasteless

SATURDAY 2:30PM

GASOLINE

Lenni finds love with a tough girl mechanic

SATURDAY 5:30PM

LEAVING METROPOLIS

Prickly realities of life in the 21st century

SATURDAY 8PM

YOSSI & JAGGER

The love story of two Israeli officers

SUNDAY 11:30AM

BLUE GATE CROSSING

The teenage crush and the enchanting desire for females

SUNDAY 2PM

THE EVENT

Featuring Olympia Dukakis & Parker Posey

SUNDAY 4:30PM

PREY FOR ROCK & ROLL

Punk-inspired hit from the makers of Hedwig and the Angry Inch

SUNDAY 7:30PM

SEPTEMBER 19TH, 20TH and 21ST

C/S FINE ARTS CENTER

30 WEST DALE STREET

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY! FESTIVAL STARTS FRIDAY!

Full Pass $70 • Half Pass $45

the whole shebang! | saturday or sunday-friday

Four Film Pass $30 • Individual Films $10

saturday or sunday | available at the fine arts center box office only

FESTIVAL PASSES AVAILABLE AT: FINE ARTS CENTER BOX OFFICE, SPICE OF LIFE, TOONS, WAG 'N' WASH, KRCC-FM, THE PRIDE CENTER AND ONLINE AT <www.pplff.org>!

INFO: 719.38.MOVIE / www.pplff.org

Film

Portrait of the artist as a

Hope Davis as Joyce Brabner and Paul Giamatti as the grumpy Harvey Pekar.

***American Splendor (R)**

Fine Line

If you've ever known the gnawing discontent of scraping and scrubbing only to find your bathroom floor, kitchen sink or entire life still soiled with dirt, doubt and despair, then you'll have a head start into the world of Harvey Pekar.

Where most misanthropes succeed only in making themselves miserable, Pekar has fashioned a curious career from his own insightful brand of lonely gloom. Through his observationally droll *American Splendor* comic books (which he's written since 1975, with illustrations from comic book greats like Robert Crumb and Joe Sacco), Pekar chronicles life as file clerk at a VA hospital, moping around his apartment, and tending his voluminous record collection.

Pessimism as a way of life is hardly a forte of the American cinema. The rare attempts usually focus on the redemptive power of Macaulay Culkinized youths teaching old fart how to love again. But what about those who never cheer up? At wh

Good con

***Matchstick Men (PG-13)**

Warner Bros. Pictures

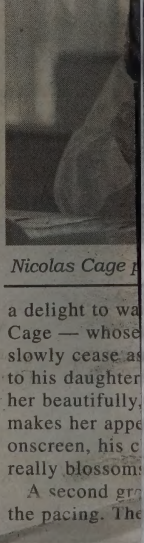
"Crime does pay, it just doesn't pay well." So Roy Waller (Nicolas Cage) says to his teen-age daughter Angela (Alison Lohman) about the life of being "a con artist, flim-flam man, matchstick man."

He should know. A lifetime as a con artist, and he and his partner Frank (Sam Rockwell) are still doing a small-time con — calling people up and offering them fake prizes if they'll only buy a water filter to offset the taxes. Then they appear as agents of the federal trade commission, tell the victims that they've been conned, get them to sign a form allowing Frank and Roy access to their bank accounts, and then really clean them out. It is a con masquerading as an honest activity, masquerading as a con.

All of this continues as normal until the day that Roy runs out of the medication that keeps him from obsessively cleaning and re-cleaning his house. Full of tics and rituals, without his meds Roy's a complete wreck, an agoraphobic who only eats canned tuna and who can't leave the house without slamming the door three times. His partner finally convinces him to see a psychiatrist who uncovers that Roy's problems stem from the guilt of leaving his wife 14 years before while she was pregnant.

Once reunited with his teen-age daughter Angela, Roy's life turns around. He stops obsessing about his house and starts becoming a dad, complete with turning his daughter on to the family con trade. Then the real fun begins.

There are numerous pleasures from the con of *Matchstick Men*. The first is the acting, led in particular by Alison Lohman who does a wonderful job of playing a petulant teen-ager (the actress herself is 24, which is hard to believe when you see her on screen). Her gangly limbs, funny hair, and air of teen-age spontaneity are



Nicolas Cage p

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